



Board of Barbering & Cosmetology

Esthetics Fact Sheet

August 2004

CONSUMER INFORMATION SHEET

What is esthetics?

- Esthetics is the practice of giving facials, applying makeup, giving skin care, or beautifying the face, neck, arms, or upper part of the human body by use of cosmetic preparations, antiseptics, tonics, lotions, or creams.
- It also includes applying eyelashes or removing hair by tweezing, depilatories, or waxing.

Do estheticians need to be licensed?

- Yes, in California only state-licensed estheticians and cosmetologists in state-licensed salons may legally perform the services described above. As of July 2004, there were more than 23,000 licensed estheticians in California.

Is there anything with the skin that estheticians can't do?

- Yes, it is illegal for estheticians to pierce the skin during any service.
- It's also illegal for estheticians to administer any medications for pain control.

Do people who only demonstrate, recommend or sell skin care products need to be licensed?

- No, they do not need to be licensed by the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology.
- These people cannot receive (or expect) any compensation from clients for applying the product to their skin.